

State Emergency Response Commission

Mission	To coordinate and supervise implementation of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) within California including federal programs to prevent, mitigate, and enhance response to hazardous material emergencies and ensure public availability of appropriate chemical information as prescribed by law.
Format	Members from eight state agencies with roles in hazardous material emergency management, six regional Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), and three representatives from local government. The commission meets in March, July, and November.
Chair	Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Address	State Emergency Response Commission c/o Governor's Office of Emergency Services Hazardous Materials Unit 3650 Schriever Avenue Mather, CA 95655 (916) 845-8741 www.oes.ca.gov
Background	<p><u>The federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)</u> contains specific directives for state governments for the implementation of EPCRA at the state level. The EPCRA program as it applies to California was promulgated in the state Health and Safety Code, Title 19, and in Executive Orders. The federal EPCRA program is implemented and administered in California by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), six local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), and 128 local Administering Agencies established under California's pre-existing Hazardous Materials Release Response Plan program. OES provides staff support to the SERC.</p> <p>The SERC oversees implementation of EPCRA in California through the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Establish emergency planning districts.

- Appoint local emergency planning committees (LEPC) for planning districts and supervise and coordinate their activities.
- Establish procedures for receiving and processing requests from the public for hazardous materials information.
- Receive notification from facilities handling hazardous materials when they are subject to EPCRA requirements.
- Notify the U.S. EPA Administrator of facilities subject to EPCRA requirements.
- Review emergency response plans and make recommendations necessary to ensure coordination with emergency response plans of other emergency planning jurisdictions.

Membership: Membership of the SERC is specified in Executive Order W-40-93 as follows:

Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services;

Secretary, Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency;

Secretary, State Consumer Services Agency;

Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency;

Director, Department of Food and Agriculture;

Secretary, Resources Agency;

Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency;

Director, Department of Industrial Relations;

One representative from each of the six LEPCs; and

Three representatives of local government appointed by the SERC, including one from an Administering Agency.

Local Emergency Planning Committees The SERC receives regional emergency plans from the six LEPCs. (LEPC boundaries are the same as OES mutual-aid regions and include several counties and cities.)

LEPCs carry out training, coordination, and community right-to-know requirements of EPCRA.

In addition to the statutorily required members, representatives of county agricultural commissioners, local Administering Agencies, emergency management, and local government have been appointed to the committees. Each LEPC may also add four ad-hoc members. Regional OES staff are assigned to assist LEPCs.

**Local
Administering
Agencies**

To facilitate EPCRA decision-making at the most practical level, ie. for most effective public protection, the SERC has delegated some EPCRA requirements based on the long-standing structure of California's hazardous material program. Thus, emergency and hazardous chemical inventory forms, and MSDSs are submitted to the local Administering Agencies instead of the SERC. It is the Administering Agencies, therefore, that respond to public inquiries regarding business inventories. Immediate notice and follow-up reports (Section 304 reports) regarding hazardous material releases are submitted to both the Administering Agencies and OES.

Administering Agencies prepare local area emergency plans. These provide input for the six LEPCs in preparing the regional emergency plans. Administering Agencies are represented on the SERC and on the LEPCs.

Related Laws

- United States Code, Title 42, Section 11001 et. seq.
- California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.95, Article 1.
- California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Section 2720 et. seq.
- As required by state law, OES is currently seeking state delegation of the federal accidental release prevention program. California's program will contain all of the federal program's features, plus some California-specific attributes, e.g., consideration of potential seismic events.

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